UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : MR. TOLSON DATE: July 14, 1964

FROM : J. H. GALE

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT'S ASSASSINATION
REQUEST FROM WALTER E. CRAIG,
PRESIDENT, AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION (ABA)

This morning Inspector Edwards received a phone call from ABA President Walter E. Craig who has been representing the ABA with the Warren Commission. Craig, as you know, has always had the highest regard for the Director and the Bureau and in prior conversations with him concerning the Warren Commission he has expressed little sympathy with some of the Commission's inquiries and has always been very sympathetic with the Bureau's position. Craig stated he had a favor he wanted to ask.

Craig indicated that the Warren Commission had asked him and Attorney Charles Murray, who is a member of Craig's staff assisting him at the Commission, to go to Dallas and look over the Presidential route, the building from which the shots were fired, and also go over Oswald's route. The Commission had asked Craig and Murray to do this in the company of the Dallas Chief of Police but Craig said he feels this is inappropriate and feels that he and Murray should do this independently of the Chief so that they wouldn't be considered as under the influence of the Chief or rubber-stamping him.

Consequently, Craig said that he and Murray plan to travel to Dallas Wednesday, 7/15/64, and spend Thursday and Friday in clearing up their business in Dallas. Craig said he would greatly appreciate it if our Special Agent in Charge in Dallas could be alerted to their coming and facilitate their handling of whatever matters they had to handle there expeditiously and thus they would not become involved with the Chief of Police. Craig said that he would not involve our personnel in their inquiries and it was merely something he was asking so that they would be able to get everything done as expeditiously as possible. Craig assured me that there would be no possible embarrassment to the Bureau in this and no possible involvement. In any event he told me that he felt sure that when his inquiries were completed in connection with the Warren Commission, he was confident "the FBI would be hand in glove" with Craig's conclusions in any event. 62-109060

I am confident Craig's request is sincere and is motivated completely by his desire to act independently of the Commission. In view of Craig's extremely cooperative feelings in the past and his high regard for the Bureau, I feel we should assist him as requested.

53 JUL 23 1964

JUL 17 1964

1 - Mr. Rosen

1 - Mr. DeLoach

Section 78

Memo for Mr. Tolson
Re: President's Assassination

RECOMMENDATION:

That authority be given to telephonically alert the SAC at Dallas to Craig's arrival and instruct him to extend all possible courtesies in connection with his business. If approved, return this memorandum to Inspector Edwards for handling.

Craig and SAC Shanklin telephonically advised Tues. aft., 7/14/64 1PM.

OK
A